

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends Claim 8, 10 and 17 and cancels Claims 1-7, 9, 12-16 and 18. Claims 8, 10, 11 and 17 are currently pending in the application. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that all currently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that Claims 8, 10, 11 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of now cancelled base Claim 1. Claim 11 properly depends from independent Claim 10. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of now cancelled base Claim 13. Accordingly, Claims 8, 10, 11 and 17 should be allowed.

OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 7 AND 19

The Examiner objected to Claims 7 and 19 for minor clerical errors. As noted above, Claims 7 and 19 have been cancelled. Accordingly, these objections are now moot.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 12-14, 16, 18 AND 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12-14, 16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,723,516 to Bigham *et al.* ("Bigham") and rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 12-14, 16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 4-103668 to Kasa *et al.* ("Kasa"). As noted above, Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 12-14, 16, 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections are now moot.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2, 5, 9 AND 15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bigham and rejected Claims 5 and 15 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Kasa. As noted above, Claims 2, 5, 9 and 15 have been cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSION

No fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 11-0855. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,

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